

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference P801145/WO/1 | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/EP2003/012986 | International filing date (day/month/year) 20 November 2003 (20.11.2003) | Priority date (day/month/year) 20 December 2002 (20.12.2002) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04L 12/403, 29/12, B60R 16/02 | | |
| Applicant DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 10 July 2004 (10.07.2004) | Date of completion of this report 29 March 2005 (29.03.2005) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/012986

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-22 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:

pages _____ 1-14 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the drawings:

pages _____ 1/2-2/2 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

| |
|-------------------------------|
| International application No. |
| PCT/EP 03/12986 |

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1 - 14 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1 - 14 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1 - 14 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 196 21 272 A (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT) 27 November 1997 (1997-11-27)

D2: US-A-5 583 754 (BROGHAMMER REINHARD ET AL) 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10)

D3: FR-A-2 214 385 (HONEYWELL BULL SOC IND) 9 August 1974 (1974-08-09)

2. Document D1, which is regarded as the closest prior art, discloses an addressing device for a slave station of a serial bus system and a method for addressing a slave station. The slave stations each contain a switching device which is coupled into the data line to the next slave station in order to interrupt the data line as a function of a switching signal of the control device.

2.1 The subject matter of claim 1 differs from this known method for automatic addressing in bus systems in that an address allocation period is started by means of a message on the common data bus line, upon which not only is the common bus line galvanically separated into sub-sections, but the control

appliances to be addressed (i.e. slave stations) switch on their transmitting units, i.e. connect the data line to the ground wire. This allows a time-limited and defined measurement to be made.

- 2.2 The present invention thus addresses the problem of being able to carry out automatic address allocation for slave stations of a bus system by determining the presence of a series-connected slave station via a defined measurement.
- 2.3 Documents D2 and D3 do not disclose any information relating to an address allocation period or a connection between the data line and the ground wire in the transmitting unit of the slave station.
- 2.4 The cited documents, D1, D2 and D3, taken either alone or in combination, do not suggest the subject matter of claim 1 to a person skilled in the art.

This also applies to the bus system as per the subject matter of **independent claim 12**, which contains a feature combination similar to that of **claim 1**.

More particularly, the cited documents do not disclose a measuring arrangement for measuring current or voltage at the output to the series-connected control appliance (slave station), which would then control the separating means for separating the data bus line and the transceiver unit of the slave station.

- 2.5 Consequently, an inventive step can be acknowledged with respect to the subject matter of independent

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/12986

claims 1 and 12 and to the further embodiments as per the additional features of **dependent claims 2 to 11 and 13 and 14**. The present application thus meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) to (4).

3. Certain observations on the international application

The wording "the address" in dependent claim 2 (page 24, line 1) is unclear, since the generation and allocation of a specific address is not introduced until claim 9 and therefore it is not clear what address is meant in claim 2. As a result, the subject matter of claim 2 is not clearly defined (PCT Article 6).